

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE
NOVEMBER 13, 2020**

Alabama Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower, Suite 1586
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chair
Karen Marlowe, Pharm.D., Co-Chair
Kristi A. Acker, D.N.P.
Gregory W. Ayers, M.D.
John G. Beard, M.B.A.
Richard J. Brockman, J.D.
Stormy Dismuke, M.S.N.
Leigh Ann Matthews, M.S.N.
Mary Ann Somers, M.A.Ed.

Members Absent

Timothy Mayhall, M.Div.
Amy L. McAfee, M.S.W.
John P. Miller, M.D.

Staff Present

Mary G. McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer
Dennis Blair, Bureau of Health Provider Standards (BHPS)
LaKesha Hopkins, BHPS
Faye Allen, BHPS

Guest Present

Angie Cameron Smith (Proxy for Richard J. Brockman)

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2020:

The Council recommended approval of the Minutes of February 7, 2020, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Dr. Mary McIntyre provided an update on the Department's efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She also provided the Council with statistics and stressed the importance of the "Safer at Home Orders" and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Influencing the public with a statement before the holidays was also discussed.

Dr. Rodney Tucker stated, “It would be great to get all of our spheres of influence, because we have representation from the Hospital Association, Medical Association, hospice, home care, and durable medical.”

OPIOID PRESCRIBING AND REGULATION UPDATES:

Dr. Gregory Ayers informed the Council that there were no new items to report on opioid prescribing and regulations. However, he did inform the members that the Continuing Medical Education (CME) had been deferred this year until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes the opioid prescribing requirements for the coverage with evidence development process and it also applies to nurse practitioners. Nurse practitioners must take a required prescribing course to obtain their Drug Enforcement Administration registration and certificate to prescribe in Alabama.

COVID-19 IMPACT ON PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE PATIENTS UPDATE:

Each member provided an update on how their industry was coping with the changes experienced by their patients due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

STATEWIDE COMMUNICATION INITIATIVE DISCUSSION:

Dr. Tucker reminded the Council of the statewide communication initiative that was discussed last year. He informed the Council that he met with Department representatives and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama about the initiative and that the Council would be readdressing the topic again as the year goes on.

SOUTHEASTERN INNOVATION VIRTUAL SUMMIT NOVEMBER 16 – 20, 2020:

Dr. Tucker reminded everyone to register for the Southeastern Innovation Virtual Summit that will be held on November 16 – 20, 2020. He also informed the Council that the information would be accessible for a month for those who register, but all the material for CME purposes must be done within the week of the summit.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Dr. McIntyre and the Council discussed the importance of personal protective equipment and how the public must take wearing masks and other protective gear seriously.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for February 12, 2021.

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chair
State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life

Jacqueline D. Milledge, Acting Director
Bureau of Health Provider Standards
Alabama Department of Public Health

Approved August 20, 2021